

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for reducing bleeding in biopsy procedures provides a cauterizing electrical current through an introducer needle as the needle is withdrawn. A majority of the length of the introducer needle may be insulated to concentrate the cauterization at its tip, and a field smoothing cauterizing stylet may be used in conjunction with the tube to provide more even cauterization and/or instrumentation to monitor cauterization. Cauterization may be controlled by the speed of withdrawal of the introducer needle as guided manually or automatically by the instrumentation.

5160152_1.DOC

960296.98636